

Q1
an angle to the bottom seat portion and formed to include first and second slanted channels aligned in spaced-apart diverging relation to lie behind the back plate so that the first shoulder belt passes through the first slot and first slanted channel and the second shoulder belt passes through the second slot and second slanted channel during up and down movement of the harness-control panel relative to the seat shell.

Q2
8 ~~8~~ (Amended) The child-restraint seat of claim 2, wherein the harness-control [plate] panel further includes a headrest provided in an upper portion of the back plate above the first and second spaced-apart slots and adapted to extend above an upper edge of the back support portion upon removal of the first and second shoulder belts from the first and second spaced-apart slots and the first and second slanted channels and movement of the harness-control panel to a highest position relative to the seat shell.

Q3
10 ~~10~~ (Amended) The child-restraint seat of claim 1, wherein the [seat shell is formed to include a] back support portion of the seat shell is positioned to lie at an angle to the bottom seat portion and formed to include a guide slot extending therethrough and the harness-control panel includes a back plate [found] formed to include the belt-receiving opening and [adapted to face toward a child seated in the seat shell] arranged to lie adjacent to a front surface of the seat shell to cause a child seated in the seat shell to rest against the back plate and a support arm coupled to the back plate and arranged to extend through the guide slot formed in the back support portion and reciprocate up and down therein as the back plate moves up and down relative to the back support portion between a low position adapted to suit a small-sized child and a higher position adapted to suit a larger-sized child.

Q4
13 ~~13~~ (Amended) The child-restraint seat of claim ~~8~~¹⁰, wherein the back support portion is formed to include two spaced-apart guide slots extending therethrough and the harness-control panel includes two support arms coupled to the back plate and each support arm is arranged to extend through one of the guide slots.

Q5
15 ~~15~~ (Amended) The child-restraint seat of claim ~~8~~¹⁰, wherein the seat shell further includes a vertical back rib appended to a back surface of the back support portion [to position the back support portion between the harness-control panel and the vertical back rib] and wherein the vertical back rib is formed to include the guide slot.

16 ~~16~~ (Amended) The child-restraint apparatus of claim 1, wherein the [seat shell further includes a] back support portion is positioned to lie at an angle to the bottom seat portion and [further] the seat shell further includes [comprising] means coupled to the back support portion for moving the harness-control panel up and down relative to the bottom seat portion.

1916. (Amended) [The child-restraint apparatus of claim 15] A child-restraint seat comprising

a seat shell including a bottom seat portion,

a child-restraint harness coupled to the seat shell, and

Q6 a harness-control panel formed to include a belt-receiving opening receiving a shoulder belt portion of the child-restraint harness, the harness-control panel being mounted on the seat shell for up and down movement relative to the seat shell to raise and lower the shoulder belt portion of the child-restraint harness with respect to the bottom seat portion to harness small-sized children and large-sized children in a restrained position in the seat shell,
the seat shell further including a back support portion positioned to lie at an angle to the bottom seat portion and further comprising means coupled to the back support portion for moving the harness-control panel up and down relative to the bottom seat portion,

moving means including panel height locators coupled to the back support portion at different elevations above the bottom seat portion and means coupled to the harness-control panel for engaging a selected one of the panel height locators to establish a selected elevation of the harness-control panel and the shoulder belt portions of the child-restraint harness received in the belt-receiving opening formed in the harness-control panel above the bottom seat portion, wherein the back support portion is formed to include an opening therein and the harness-control panel includes a back plate formed to include the belt-receiving opening and at least one support arm coupled to the back plate and to the engaging means and arranged to extend through the opening formed in the back support portion.

2018. (Amended) [The child-restraint seat of claim 1] A child-restraint seat comprising

a seat shell including a bottom seat portion,

a child-restraint harness coupled to the seat shell, and

Q7 a harness-control panel formed to include a belt-receiving opening receiving a shoulder belt portion of the child-restraint harness, the harness-control panel being mounted on the seat shell for up and down movement relative to the seat shell to raise and lower the shoulder belt portion of the child-restraint harness with respect to the bottom seat portion to harness small-sized children and large-sized children in a restrained position in the seat shell, wherein the seat shell includes a back support portion positioned to lie at an angle to the bottom seat portion and formed to include at least two position locator slots and the seat shell further comprising a belt support member engaging the child-restraint harness and a bar release member mounted for movement on

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the belt support member and formed to include a cam face arranged to act against the back support portion to disengage the belt support member from one of the at least two position locator slots in response to movement of the bar release member relative to the belt support member.

~~26~~ 23. (Amended) A child-restraint seat comprising
a seat back formed to include first and second slanted channels aligned in spaced-apart diverging relation,

a harness-control plate including a back plate formed to include a first slot communicating with the first slanted channel and a second slot communicating with the second slanted channel,

a child-restraint harness including a first shoulder belt passing through the first slot and slanted channel and a second shoulder belt passing through the second slot and slanted channel, and

means for moving the harness-control plate up and down relative to the seat back to move the first and second shoulder belts passing through the first and second slots in the first and second slanted channels up and down relative to the seat back to accommodate small-sized and large-sized children, the seat back being positioned to lie between the harness-control plate and the moving means.

~~28~~ 25. (Amended) The child-restraint seat of claim ~~24~~ 27, wherein the seat back is formed to include a guide slot, the harness-control panel further includes a support arm coupled to the back plate and to a spring coupled to the belt support bar to move therewith and arranged to pass through the guide slot formed in the seat back.

~~31~~ 26. (Amended) [The child-restraint seat of claim 25] A child-restraint seat comprising

a seat back formed to include first and second slanted channels aligned in spaced-apart diverging relation,

a harness-control plate including a back plate formed to include a first slot communicating with the first slanted channel and a second slot communicating with the second slanted channel,

a child-restraint harness including a first shoulder belt passing through the first slot and slanted channel and a second shoulder belt passing through the second slot and slanted channel,

means for moving the harness-control plate up and down relative to the seat back to move the first and second shoulder belts passing through the first and second slots in the first and second slanted channels up and down relative to the seat back to accommodate small-sized and large-

sized children, the moving means including a belt support bar arranged to lie behind the seat back with the seat back located between the harness-control plate and the belt support bar and wherein the first and second shoulder belts exit the first and second slanted channels to engage the belt support bar.

wherein the seat back is formed to include a guide slot, the harness-control panel further including a support arm coupled to the back plate and to a spring coupled to the belt support bar to move therewith and arranged to pass through the guide slot formed in the seat back,

wherein the seat back further includes at least two position locator slots oriented to receive the belt support bar therein and the moving means includes at least one spring arranged to urge the belt support bar into one of the position locator slots upon movement of the belt support bar to lie in confronting relation therewith, and

bar release means for selectively moving the belt support bar against the at least one spring to disengage the one of the position locator slots to enable a user to move the belt support bar up and down relative to the seat back, thereby moving the harness-control panel and the first and second shoulder belts up and down relative to the seat back.

~~30~~ ~~28~~. (Amended) The child-restraint seat of claim ~~27~~, ²⁹ wherein the first and second spaced-apart slots are located in a position below the headrest to lie in spaced-apart relation to the first and second slanted channels upon movement [o] of the harness-control panel to the highest position relative to the seat shell.

Add new claims 39-41 as follows:

~~5~~ ~~29~~. The child-restraint seat of claim 4, wherein the back support portion includes a front surface facing toward the harness-control panel and a rear surface facing away from the harness-control panel, each guide slot defines an aperture extending through the back support portion and having an opening in each of the front and rear surfaces of the back support portion, and each support arm passes through one of the openings in the front surface of the back support portion and one of the openings in the rear surface of the back support portion.

~~1~~ ~~40~~. The child-restraint seat of claim ~~6~~, wherein the moving means includes a pair of springs each coupled to a belt support member and one of the support arms, the belt support member is provided for generally horizontal movement between a first position and a second position relative to the back support portion such that the second position is a greater distance spaced-apart from the harness-control panel than the first position so that when the belt support member is in the second position, the harness-control panel is movable up and down relative to the seat shell.

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All
could

The child-restraint seat of claim 19, further comprising a spring urging the belt support member into one of the at least two position locator slots, the spring formed to move the belt support member in a generally horizontal direction relative to the harness-control panel and between a first position engaged with one of the at least two position locator slots and a second position disengaged from the at least position locator slots.

Remarks

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 6-13, 15-22, 26 and 29-38 as being indefinite under 35 USC 112 is requested. The suggested irregularities in claim 6 and 8 have been clarified as well as claim 13. The objection to the panel height locators and positional locator slots is not believed to be well taken. Firstly, the terms as used in claims 15-17 (panel height locators) can be found in the specification at page 10, line 21-26 and the term (panel locator slots) refers to slots 122, 124, 126 and 128 described in the same statement in the specification and thus are clearly understood. It is not seen why a more definitive location is necessary. Claim 15 recites that the panel height locators are coupled to the back support at different elevations above the seat portion and that there are means coupled to the harness control panel for engaging a selected one of these panel height locators. Thus, the location is specific and the means plus functions format is believed to be appropriate, likewise in claim 18 the locator slots are located on the back support portion and the bar release member is referenced at its location also. Claims 26 and 29 have similar type recitations. Accordingly reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-3, 14 and 23 as being anticipated by Burleigh et al. ('601) under 35 USC 102(b) is requested. As amended the location of the harness control panel has been referenced. Accordingly there is no anticipation. Hence, reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 4-13 (or a new rejection of claims 1-3, 14 and 23) as being unpatentable over Burleigh ('601) in view of Burleigh ('639) under 35 USC 103(a) is requested. In the Burleigh ('639) disclosure, the moveable headrest is to accommodate the normal lap seat belt and thus since the seat belt has to go around the occupant, of necessity the headrest must be placed in the front of the seat. In the Burleigh ('601), disclosure a separate belt system is used and thus there is no need to have the moveable plate be in front of the seat. There is no reason to have the moveable plate located in front of the seat, but to the contrary having it behind the seat allows for the particular type of adjustment mechanisms shown to be utilized wherein they will not interfere with a infant riding in the seat. The plate is flat and has no reason to be located in the front

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